Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-8 (canceled)

9. (new) A method for transmitting data packets between a first communications network node and a second communications network node of an communications optical network, comprising:

reserving a data channel;

transmitting a first data burst having aggregated data packets on the data channel;

retaining the data channel for a consecutive transmission phase after transmitting the first data;

transmitting additional data packets between the nodes during the consecutive transmission phase; and

terminating the connection only when the data channel is at least partially required for transmitting a second data burst between a third communications network node and a fourth communications network node of new connection.

10. (new) The method according to claim 9,

wherein a request to reserve transmission capacity for the new connection is sent by a reservation-requiring network node via switching devices of the network to an end node,

wherein the third node is the reservation-requiring network node, and

wherein the fourth node is the end node.

11. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein transmission capacity for the new connection is only reserved during the consecutive transmission phase.

12. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein a disconnect signal is transmitted via the switching devices present in the devices present in the first connection to the first node.

13. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein a disconnect signal is transmitted via the switching devices present in the devices present in the first connection to the first node.

14. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein transmission capacity is reserved according to a two-way reservation optical burst switching principle via a request and an acknowledgement.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the transmission capacity is reserved for bidirectional connections.

16. (new) The method according to claim 15, wherein to reserve the transmission capacity, the disconnect signal is sent to the first and second nodes.

17. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein a disconnect signal is only sent when an acknowledgement is issued by the end node receiving the request to reserve the transmission capacity.

18. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein a disconnect signal is only sent when an acknowledgement is issued by the end node receiving a request to reserve the transmission capacity.